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Security Council

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Letter dated 19 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States in September 2009 (see annex).

This report has been prepared by the United States Mission following consultations with other members of the Council. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rosemary A. **DiCarlo**
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Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States of America (September 2009)

Introduction

During the United States presidency of the Security Council in September 2009, the Council held 12 meetings and seven consultations of the whole. The Council also adopted four resolutions and one presidential statement. The President of the United States, Barack Obama, presided over the summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament on 24 September. The United States Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, presided over the adoption of the resolution on women and peace and security on 30 September.

Africa

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

On 15 September, Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, updated the Council on the Committee's activities over the past 90 days. He reported on the briefing by the Sudan Panel of Experts to the Committee and highlighted the Panel's recent findings. The Panel's briefing highlighted the increase in frequency of sanctions violations in Darfur during the reporting period (20 June-15 September 2009). It noted a significant consolidation of Darfur and Chadian rebel groups under larger militias, and the heavy recruitment of child soldiers in eastern Chad and Darfur. The Panel of Experts also documented offensive military overflights in Darfur by Sudanese and Chadian armed forces. Council members expressed support for the Committee's work and looked forward to the final report of the Panel of Experts.

Liberia

On 9 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ellen Margrethe Løj, briefed the Council on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). She stressed that the 2011 elections will be "critical" to the peace process. The Special Representative told the Council that the Liberia National Police required additional support, and that Liberians were looking to the international community for guidance, given the release of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in July. She noted that it is up to Liberians to find resolution models. On 15 September, by resolution 1885 (2009), the Council unanimously approved the extension of the UNMIL mandate for one year. That resolution included support for Liberia's elections as part of the UNMIL mandate, and member States agreed that the presidential and legislative elections of October 2011 are key milestones in furthering democratic rule in Liberia. All members also expressed support for the recommended third stage of the UNMIL drawdown, to 8,200 troops, by May 2010 and for maintaining the number of formed police units.

The Council met with troop- and police-contributing countries on 3 September, the week prior to Council deliberations on UNMIL, in response to a request from donor countries to hold private briefings for contributing countries earlier in the renewal process.

Sierra Leone

On 14 September, the Council discussed the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Michael von der Schulenburg, briefed the Council and said that UNIPSIL was working to increase national ownership and better aid coordination. He explained how the "light footprint" of the Office would facilitate a smooth transition to a United Nations resident coordinator, and stressed that the peace in Sierra Leone was fragile. The Permanent Representative of Canada, John McNee, as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, told the Council that Commission funds were being used to support reconciliation efforts. The Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, Shekou Touray, welcomed an extension of the UNIPSIL mandate but said that existing benchmarks were sufficient since additions would require the support of all stakeholders, which may not be forthcoming. All Council members voiced support for the peacebuilding mission and several members indicated interest in reviewing the report on allegations of politically motivated rape. On 15 September, by resolution 1886 (2009), the Council unanimously renewed the UNIPSIL mandate for one year.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 29 September, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/25) on Côte d'Ivoire, in which it, inter alia, reiterated its full support to the Ouagadougou political process and to the electoral timeline endorsed by all the main Ivorian political actors.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

On 30 September, the President of the Council briefed the Council on her delegation's meeting on 29 September with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea, Alexandre Loua, during which he reported that the recent violence in Conakry was caused by protesters who had obtained arms after overrunning a police station and then clashed with the police. The Minister said his Government would conduct an investigation and advocated that the Chairman of the National Council for Democracy and Development, Dadis Camara, not be barred from national elections. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Haile Menkerios, then briefed the Council and reported that, on the day of the violence, the Guinean Red Berets, not the police, had opened fire on the crowd at the stadium. He said that 150 people were reportedly killed, many hundreds more injured, and human rights abuses committed. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that the President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaore, would be put forward by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to become the facilitator between the ruling authorities and the opposition. Council members condemned the violence, urged the authorities in Guinea to bring the perpetrators to justice, supported the leadership of ECOWAS and the African Union, and called upon the National Council for Democracy and Development to reaffirm and respect its previous commitment not

to field candidates in Guinea's upcoming elections. The Council agreed on elements of a statement to the press, which the President delivered following the meeting.

Asia and Middle East

Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

A representative of the Secretariat briefed the Council on the establishment of the seven-member Panel of Experts, a team mandated in resolution 1874 (2009) to help to monitor and improve implementation of the measures decided in resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009). The Secretariat reported that, because of various delays, the Panel of Experts was not constituted in time to prepare an interim report by the deadline of 12 September requested in resolution 1874 (2009). The Permanent Representative of Turkey, Ertuğrul Apakan, the new Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), said that an additional 60 days should be sufficient to allow the Panel of Experts to prepare a comprehensive and detailed report to the Council. The Council agreed to allow the Panel 60 additional days to prepare the report. Many Council members expressed their strong support for the implementation of resolution 1874 (2009) and their commitment to support the work of the Panel.

Afghanistan

On 29 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Kai Eide, provided a briefing to the Council that focused on elections, formation of a new government, reconciliation, security, and international coordination. He called on the future Afghan president to appoint a government which could inspire confidence in its citizenry and the international community, and to formulate an agenda corresponding to the concerns of the people — a government that would intensify the struggle against corruption, strengthen respect for the rule of law, end the culture of impunity and promote social and economic justice. The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Rangin Dadfar Spanta, made remarks, which centred on elections and the need for long-term and comprehensive stabilization and humanitarian, reconstruction and developmental assistance. He said that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was well positioned to play a leading role in shaping Afghanistan's future. All Council members spoke following the Minister's statement. Delegations called for continued patience as the Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission investigate and adjudicate incidents of fraud and certify the final election results. They underlined the need to form the new Afghan government quickly. A number of Council members also welcomed the development by UNAMA of benchmarks and indicators of progress as a useful means for the Security Council to measure progress in Afghanistan.

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran

On 9 September, the Permanent Representative of Japan, Yukio Takasu, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), briefed the Council on the activities of the Committee over the previous 90 days. He

highlighted the publishing on the Committee's website of an "implementation assistance notice", which contains information that might be useful to Member States in implementing their obligations under the relevant resolutions, and urged States to redouble their efforts to ensure full implementation in the light of a reported sanctions violation. He also updated the Council on other routine business and the number of implementation reports the Committee had received from Member States. Council members expressed support for the Committee's work and several members noted the recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency on the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 17 September, the Council heard a briefing from the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert H. Serry. He noted the efforts under way towards the early resumption and conclusion of Israel-Palestinian negotiations. He voiced concern about continued Israeli settlement activity. He recognized the Palestinian Authority's announcement that it plans to build the institutions of a State apparatus within the coming two years. He stated that the situation in Gaza remains unsustainable. He noted the release of the Goldstone report and its upcoming discussion by the Human Rights Council. The Special Coordinator also briefed the Council on efforts to form a government in Lebanon and the two rockets launched from southern Lebanon on 11 September into Israel. He noted that leaders would be gathering in New York for the general debate in the General Assembly and that there would be a meeting of the Quartet principals. He called on the parties to take responsibility and seize the opportunity to make the necessary commitments to relaunch negotiations. The Council met in consultations following the briefing to discuss the situation further. A number of members expressed concern over continuing Israeli settlement activity, and the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Several Council members referred to efforts to form a unity government in Lebanon and condemned the rocket attacks of 11 September on Israel.

Americas

Haiti

On 9 September, the Council held an open debate on Haiti. The United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, Bill Clinton, briefed the Council and urged international donors to fund their commitments, called for projecting a "more positive image" of Haiti, and encouraged more private sector investment and competition. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Hédi Annabi, reported limited progress on the Secretary-General's five benchmarks for consolidating stability in Haiti. While recognizing that socio-economic development is not a core peacekeeping issue, he underlined the link between stability and development and urged the international community to continue its assistance. The Prime Minister of Haiti, Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis, addressed the Council, highlighting her country's progress and asking for continued international support. Afterwards, all 15 Council members took the floor, followed by 16 non-members. Council members acknowledged several signs of improvement, including recent Senate elections, passage of key legislation, and incremental improvement in the capacity of the Haitian National Police. A number stressed that ultimate responsibility for success

in Haiti lies with the Haitian Government and people. Other Member States called for the extension of the MINUSTAH mandate. A number of Latin American and Caribbean Member States expressed solidarity with Haiti.

Letter dated 22 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/487)

On 25 September, the Council heard a briefing from the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Celso Amorim, on the situation at the Embassy of Brazil in Tegucigalpa, where the President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, had taken refuge. The Minister related to the Council that the Brazilian Embassy has been subject to "acts of harassment and intimidation by the de facto authorities". He expressed concern that all obligations should be met under the Vienna Convention. The Council then held consultations on the subject, most speakers stressing the importance of respecting international law through preserving the inviolability of the Embassy of Brazil, and called upon the de facto government of Honduras to cease its acts of harassment and to provide all necessary utilities and services to the individuals inside the Embassy of Brazil. Members also urged all parties to remain calm, and voiced support for regional mediation efforts facilitated by the Organization of American States. The President of the Council spoke to the press, on behalf of the Council, after consultations.

Thematic issues

Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

On 24 September, the United States convened a high-level summit with Heads of State and Government to discuss nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, during which the Council unanimously and with full Council co-sponsorship adopted resolution 1887 (2009) on the topic of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Key provisions of the resolution include a revitalized commitment to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Council called for further progress on nuclear arms reductions, and a strengthened Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also encouraged the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and expressed support for ensuring that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would have the authority and resources necessary to carry out its mission to verify the declared use of nuclear materials and facilities. President Barack Obama chaired the Security Council summit, which represented only the fifth meeting at the level of Heads of State in the Council's history. In addition to the 15 Security Council members, the Secretary-General and the Director General of IAEA made statements. Many delegations balanced their statements among the themes of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Secretary-General emphasized the need for a stronger role for the Council in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. He called for increased transparency and openness regarding the weapons programmes of nuclear-weapon States; the promotion of universal membership in key treaties, such as a fissile material cut-off treaty and the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty; and the facilitation of parallel tracks of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, by making sure that IAEA

has the resources and support it needs. The Director General of IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei, told the Council that the legal authority of IAEA is severely limited and that 90 States have not allowed full inspections of nuclear facilities. He called for countries to work towards a multilateral fuel bank of low-enriched uranium to implement an accessible nuclear fuel cycle.

Women and peace and security

On 30 September, the United States Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, presided at the Council's unanimous adoption of resolution 1888 (2009) on women and peace and security. The resolution was co-sponsored by 68 Member States. All 15 members of the Security Council, including the Secretary of State for Cooperation and Francophonie of France, Alain Joyandet, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, Bedouma Alain Yoda, made statements. Most delegations addressed the problem of impunity, called for greater women's participation in peace negotiations, and urged parties to armed conflict to uphold their international legal obligations. In resolution 1888 (2009) the Council called for the appointment of a Special Representative to focus on sexual violence in armed conflict, the creation of a team of experts to rapidly deploy to situations of particular concern with respect to sexual violence in armed conflict, the identification of women's protection advisers, and more systematic reporting on situations of sexual violence in armed conflict. The Secretary-General told the Council that he pledged to implement the elements of resolution 1888 (2009) and ensure that gender equality is advanced among United Nations staff. He declared that the Security Council was sending an unequivocal message with the adoption of the resolution.